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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 01609 110715Z

17
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 SAJ-01 NIC-01 SAM-01 SCCT-02 ACDA-19

EA-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 /152 W
---------- 099343
R 101730Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8590
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: NA
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SUBJECT: CELEBRATION OF THE REGIME'S 30TH
ANNIVERSARY.

REF: SOFIA 1608

1. WHILE THE CELEBRATIONS WERE INTERESTING AND INSTRUCTIVE, AND OF UNPRECEDENTED PROPORTIONS, THEY BROUGHT OUT NO MAJOR NEW THEMES AND DEVELOPMENTS. WE ARE SUBMITTING SEPARATELY AN ANALYSIS OF ZHIVKOV'S SPEECH. MOSCOW'S 13657, WHILE NOTING THAT PODGORNY'S SPEECH WAS FAIRLY STANDARD, A POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT NUANCE ON PALESTINE THAT WOULD HAVE ESCAPED US.

2. WIRE SERVICES WILL HAVE REPORTED THAT CHINESE AMBASSADOR CHAO, CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY THE ALBANIAN AMBASSADOR, LEFT THE SEPT 8 CEREMONIES WHEN ZHIVKOV MADE HIS REMARKS ABOUT CHINA.
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PAGE 02 SOFIA 01609 110715Z

CHAO WAS ALSO THE ONLY FOREIGN DIPLOMAT WHO EARLIER FAILED TO RISE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

FROM HIS SEAT WHEN ZHIVKOV INTRODUCED PODGORNY. NOTEWORTHY THAT ZHIVKOV'S REMARKS ABOUT ALBANIA, WHICH PRECEDED HIS REMARKS ON CHINA, HAD BEEN ENTIRELY CONCILIATORY.

3. FROM POINT OF VIEW OF FOREIGN GUESTS, ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING FEATURES OF THE PROGRAM MUST HAVE BEEN THE LAVISHNESS OF THE NEW GOVT REPRESENTATIONAL QUARTERS AT BOYANA ("RESIDENCE OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE") WHICH WERE INAUGURATED FOR THE ANNIVERSARY. WITH ITS MARBLE, WOODCARVING, ELECTRICALLY OPERATED PLATE-GLASS WALLS, CRYSTAL CHANDELIERS, HEAVY CARPETING, AND LIGHTED FOUNTAIN DISPLAYS, THIS PLEASURE DOME MAY BECOME THE PRIDE OF THE BULGARIAN PROLETARIAT BUT IT REPRESENTS AN EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURE OF SCARCE RESOURCES ON POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE.

4. GUESTS WERE ALSO TREATED TO A STAGE EXTRAVAGANZA IN UNIVERSIADE HALL, BILLED TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AS A "CONCERT", WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN PUT ON BY FLOREANCE ZIEGFELD AND CECIL B. DE MILLE. FOUR CINEMA SCREENS, SOLDIERS, PARTISANS, WORKERS, DANCING GIRLS, CHILDREN'S GROUPS, FOLKLORE ARTISTS, BALLET ETC. WERE INTERSPERSED WITH INSPIRATIONAL MOVIE CLIPS ABOUT PAST AND PRESENT BULGARIA, THE LIBERATION, AND THE STRUGGLE OF THE "MASSES" IN THE CAPITALIST WORLD TO FREE THEMSELVES FROM THEIR OPPRESSORS.

5. WHILE THE LATTER THEME OCCUPIED ONLY A FEW MINUTES OF PROGRAM LASTING OVER TWO HOURS, IT WAS NOTEWORTHY FOR INCLUDING FILM CLIPS OF BRITISH BOBBIES AND ITALIAN SPECIAL PBDICE CLUBBING DEMONSTRA-TORS, WATER CANNON (NATIONALITY NOT CLEAR) HOSING PROLETARIANS, DEMONSTRATORS CARRYING SIGNS AGAINST US IMPERIALISM (IN GERMAN), PICURE OF ANGELA DAVIS AND, AT ONE POINT, THE SOUND TRACK PLAYING "WE SHALL OVERCOME".

6. THE CELEBRATIONS WERE A COMBINATION OF AFFIRMATION OF BULGARIAN COMMUNISM WITH NATIONAL OVERTONES, AND ALMOST FRANTIC PRORCAMATIGES OF BULGARIAN GRATITUDE AND CONFIDENCE FOR THE EVER-HELPING AND EVER-PROTECTING HAND OF THE SOVIET UNION. COMPARED WITH THESE THEMES, MENTION OF COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER EE COUNTRIES WAS MINIMAL.

7. MY PERSONAL IMPRESSION OF THE PARADE, WHICH IS THE THIRD THAT I HAVE WITNESSED IN SOFIA, IS THAT WHILE THE MILITARY CONTINGENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

(CADETS) SHOWED EXEMPLARY PRECISION, THERE WAS SOMETHING PECULIAR ABOUT THE ATTITUDE DISPLAYED BY OTHER YOUNG MARCHERS. THE STUDENTS IN PARTICULAR STRUCK ME AS SLACK AND ALMOST SELF-CONSCIOUS IN THEIR PARTICIPATION. OVERALL, THERE IS VERY LITTLE ZEAL IN ALL THESE EXERCISES. MY MORE EXPERIENCED COLLEAGUES SAY THIS IS THE WAY SUCH MANIFESTATIONS ARE IN BULGARIA BUT I AM STILL STRUCK BY HOW LITTLE INTEREST THE YOUNG PEOPLE WERE TAKING IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS. IT IS ALMOST AS IF THEY FELTEMBARRASSED

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AT HAVING TO PARTICIPATE IN THEM. CROWDS ATTENDING PARADE ALSO EXHIBITED LITTLE EMOTION OR ENTHUSIASM. THEY PAID LITTLE ATTENTION TO SPEECHES BY PREMIER TODOROV AND DEFENSE MINISTER DZHUROV CARRIED BY LOUD SPEAKERS. MILITARY PORTION OF PARADE DREW SCATTERED APPLAUSE AND CROWD DECREASED IMMEDIATELY WHEN IT ENDED. CROWD PROGRESSIVELY DWINDLED DURING WORKERS PARADE UNTIL AT END MARCHERS VASTLY OUTNUMBERED VIEWERS. APPLAUSE WAS VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTANT DURING THIS PORTION.
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